



HYANNIS MARINA

4/30/2019

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Subject: Transmission line

Please see the article about the wind farm cable that became exposed only a few years after installation on Block Island.

Vineyard Wind (VW) repeatedly confirmed that there was no chance of their cable becoming exposed or creating an electric shock. I think it is very safe to assume that the people who ran the cable into Block Island said the same thing.

Sandy shoals do shift, which causes the sea floor to change. Therefore putting this cable down as little as 6' to 10' (which is what I was told but not verified) in shoal areas in the fishing grounds and beaches is not safe.

Vineyard Wind's cable is coming to shore on one of the Cape's busiest public beach areas - Covell Beach, which is adjacent to the Craigville Beach Association and Craigville Beach. Therefore it would seem that the Cape Cod Commission (CCC) needs to be extra vigilant with VW by putting a condition in their permit which requires VW to bury their cable much deeper below the sea floor. This is especially important near Covell Beach to reduce the risk of electric current leakage shock hazards to our swimmers.

The dragger fishermen routinely drag the sea floor in much of the area between the VW's turbine locations and Covell Beach. Therefore, the VW cable needs to be very deep because this could cause catastrophes to boats due to entanglement and personal injuries. A dragger's cables and doors could pierce the insulation if the cable gets close to the surface like in Block Island.

The CCC needs to ensure public safety on our beaches and beyond. The CCC also needs to make a serious request of the authorities responsible for the areas out beyond your jurisdiction to insist that cabling between the VW turbines and Covell Beach be required to be buried deeper than proposed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me – 508-790-4000 x 130.

Respectfully,

Wayne Kurker
Hyannis Marina

Cable exposed near shoreline

Wed, 08/08/2018 - 1:30pm

Category: News

UPDATE: The Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council issued a statement today concerning the cable issue at the Town Beach.

Laura Dwyer, a spokesperson for the CRMC, told *The Block Island Times* that, "The CRMC met with representatives from National Grid and Deepwater Wind this morning, and the CRMC is requiring the two companies to work quickly toward both a short-term and long-term solution. During the meeting, Deepwater Wind and National Grid expressed that they are going to send a diver out for a visual confirmation immediately, and obtain a more detailed survey of the area, and are reaching out to their international contacts that might have experience with an exposed cable."

"We will be meeting with them again in two weeks for their solution for immediate resolution, and again in September for proposals on a more permanent solution to this problem," noted Dwyer. "The CRMC and other permitting agencies are taking this very seriously, and will be pushing National Grid to implement measures, as soon as possible."

As has been reported by *The Times*, the sea2shore transmission cable, installed by National Grid as part of the Block Island Wind Farm project, can now be seen about 25 feet from Town Beach at low tide. The cable, which is yellow and black, was getting some attention on the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 8. The cable connects Block Island to the mainland.

There are 34,500 volts running through the cable.

"The cable is fully armored and insulated," said Block Island Power Company President Jeffery Wright. "That doesn't take away that to stand on top of it is a little unnerving. Be respectful of it."

Beachgoers were floating and swimming above the cable, which at low tide was about three feet below the water. The exposed section of cable is also about 100 feet in front of an



An exposed section of the transmission cable is seen here about three feet below the water at low tide. Courtesy photo

area marked by 12 white buoys, which has been designated a "no anchor" zone, to warn boaters not to drop anchor onto the section where the cable is not buried deep enough.

See this week's edition of *The Block Island Times* for more details on this story. — *Lars Trodson & Cassius Shuman*



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